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he records the fluctuations and discloses the reasons therefor. The value of the work is that he brings the objects of his study as far as Ellis Island, where we shall have to make a disposition of the material. For the richer knowledge of this particular class of future citizenship, an immigration which comes to stay, our students of social problems will turn gladly to this work as a standard handbook. The treatment is particular where tables and detailed statements are seen to serve the end of a data supply, but it is broad in a wide view of history and political economy, a very valuable and wholly interesting treatise on a theme which we are forced to study in our own civic life.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Old Boston Post Road. By Stephen Jenkins. vii and 453 pp. Maps, ills., index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. $3.50. 9 x 6½.

The habit of mind which has given their great value to earlier works by Mr. Jenkins may, in the most kindly sense, be described as parochial. He was essentially an antiquarian, indefatigable in his research into the affairs of the little district about his home. It is just because of this parochialism which gave the charm to his studies of Broadway and the Bronx that this volume falls far below the level of its predecessors both in interest and in value. Hitherto he has been dealing with distances of a few miles, such as could be covered by a leisurely nag ambling along familiar roads and sure of the home stable at night. Here he essays the greater distance and it proves too much for the method. There is much interesting antiquarian material about the main highway between New York and Boston; it would enliven a less entertaining volume just to have the extracts from Madam Sarah Knight and her comment that "I made but one Grone, which was from the time I went to bed to the time I Riss." But when he has passed Stratford and gets into the unfamiliar country of the Yankees the personal acquaintance vanishes, and with it goes the peculiar charm of his writing.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Die mittelamerikanischen Vulkane. Von Karl Sapper. 173 pp. Maps, index. *Ergänzungsheft No. 178 zu Petermanns Mitt.* 1913. Mk. 12. 11 x 7½.

This is a comprehensive general report upon the volcanoes of Central America by the eminent German volcanologist, whose personal study of the region has extended over twelve years and included reconnaissance examination of nearly all important vents of the region. Not only his own data but those of all other workers are made use of in this summary report. The first part (127 pages) is devoted to detailed descriptions of the individual volcanoes; the remaining 45 pages, which compose part II, being given over to a general treatment of the subject.

As regards the distribution of the Central American volcanoes, Professor Sapper finds that they are arranged upon fissures, and that of the 101 volcanic mountains and *Maare* of the first order, the majority range themselves in beautifully expressed series which are parallel to each other and nearly parallel to the nearby coast of the Pacific ocean. To the southward, however, certain volcanoes fall in a distinct class connected with mountain arcs of the Pacific type to which they are parallel. Excepting this class, the Central American volcanoes, as already stated, are found in long, nearly parallel lines, which instead of being perfectly straight, are made up of zig-zags, or else they fall in short transverse lines nearly at right angles. The individual series are offset *en échelon* and throughout in the same sense. This peculiarity of regular arrangement taken in connection with results of his earlier studies of the eruption and earthquake of Santa Maria in 1902, leads Sapper to believe that this eruption was due to the sinking of a local block of the earth's shell, and that the group of Central American volcanic vents have been opened along the margins of similar blocks which have undergone settlement in succession, though separated by considerable time intervals. The order of settlement is believed to have been from the southeastern blocks toward the northwestern. The faults which separate the blocks of the system are believed to have been formed without control by the more ancient faults of the region. This conclusion has much in common with views which have been held concerning the movement of blocks of the earth's crust within the Great Basin of the western United States (Clarence King), and in Iceland as well (Thoroddsen).

The greater number of Central American volcanoes are cinder cones often with deep radial barrancoes whose present shape and magnitude are believed to express the result of some decades of erosion. Upon the flanks of the larger cones there are, however, in many cases, parasitic cones, and these are seldom arranged in straight lines and apparently never along radial lines. Many of the larger volcanoes, in common with those of Mexico, show in place of true parasitic cones, a larger or smaller number of cones of much the same dimensions which do not rest upon the flanks of the principal mountain but are found in its vicinity. Being obviously in causal association with the larger mountains these smaller satellites are described as ''companion volcanolets'' (*Begleitvulkänchen*). Whenever a strong wind was blowing during an eruption the parasitic cone which has resulted has attained a greater height upon the windward (western) side and the projectiles have been carried much farther to leeward.

Outflow of lava has played a large rôle in the formation of many volcanoes, and these composite cones upon being dissected by erosion present the lava flows as great ribs which stand in relief. If the main crater wall is found ruptured in more than one place, the breaks are generally two in number, opposite and in the direction of the longer axis of the cone.

Maare, the exceptionally low and broad craters, are especially numerous in Central America, but whether they are due to explosive eruptions or to infall, Sapper has been unable to determine.

As regards the materials exuded or ejected, these are found to be for the most part andesites and basalts, the latter generally a later product. Quartz, porphyry, diabase, porphyrite, and dacite become important in Nicaragua.

The great backbone of mountains and the blanketing masses of andesite, rhyolite and basalt in Central America are to be regarded as the products of gigantic fissure eruptions which took place in Tertiary and particularly in Oligocene times. The more modern eruptions in Central America began in the Quaternary and developed successive periods of culminating intensity. In Nicaragua particularly these have resulted in important changes in the coast line, in the stream net-work, and in the surface relief of the country; though the modern period of activity must be accounted as small in comparison with that of the Tertiary, and the historic eruptions as relatively few in number. The paper closes with a valuable chronological list of the volcanic and seismic phenomena which are on record for the Central American region, this list being expanded from that of de Montessus.

William Herbert Hobbs.

History of the Discovery and Conquest of Costa Rica. By Ricardo Fernández Guardia. Translated by Harry Weston Van Dyke. xxi and 416 pp. Maps, ills., index. T. Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1913. 8½ x 6.

The stories of Spanish conquest in the new world bring to light characters who met the ordeals of the strange land with fortitude. While now and then a leader turns out a rascal, the heroic and the just outnumber the degenerate, and histories of the various periods of expansion are inspiring. This is particularly true of this account of the early settlements in Costa Rica. The author has delineated the characters and lives of many brave conquistadores of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The opening chapter gives a brief account of the geography of the land and prepares the reader for the strife of conquest by accounts of the five indigenous races which though never large in number were able to harass the Spaniard for three centuries. Then follows the story of a great array of Spanish leaders who in one way or another, inspired by high ideals or a lust for gain, penetrated this unpromising land to the south. Robert M. Brown.